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Second Committee
Agenda item 49
Sustainable development

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006 and 62/188 of 19 December 2007 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,[1] in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3]

Noting again with great concern the environmental catastrophe caused by the deliberate destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the el Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, a civilian utility serving the general public, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline and extended to the Syrian coastline,

* On behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

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Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/188 of 19 December 2007 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;[4]

2. *Reiterates the expression of its deep concern* about the adverse implications of the deliberate destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese el Jiyeh electric power plant, a civilian utility serving the general public, for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Requests* the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for the costs of cleaning up and repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, and notes with deep concern the non-compliance of the Government of Israel with paragraph 4 of resolution 62/188;

5. *Reaffirms* the necessity to adhere to the full and complete implementation of resolutions 61/194 and 62/188 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of the Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages the Member States and above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

7. *Decides* to establish a voluntary trust fund for Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration in order to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of the environmental catastrophe resulting from the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks at the el Jiyeh electric power plant, and requests the Secretary-General to implement this decision before the end of the sixty-third session;

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[4] A/63/225.

8. *Invites* States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the voluntary trust fund for Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".